[Translation]

G.D.P.

659. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of G.D.P. growth of India, during 1996–97 and the G.D.P growth rate expected this year;

(b) whether the economic condition of India, particularly in industry, trade, export-import etc. has been deteriorating day by day inspite of the fact that there has not been any substantial decrease in the percentage of the G.D.P. growth;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the rate of savings last year and likely to be in the current year;

(e) the amount of foreign capital investment to be made this year, keeping in view that 42 billion dollar foreign capital investment was being made in China;

(f) whether agricultural production has been decreasing continuously; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per revised estimates released by CSO in July 1997 the GDP growth during 1996–97 was 6.8%. Estimate of GDP growth rate for 1997–98 is not yet available.

(b) and (c) Overall growth of industrial production during April to July, 1997 is 6.4% compared to 10% in April-July, 1996. As per DGCI&S data, exports in terms of U.S. dollars registered a growth rate of 4.2 per cent in April-September 1997 compared to 9.9 per cent in April-September, 1996, and imports recorded an increase of 7.6 per cent in April-September 1997 compared to 5.2 per cent in April-September 1996.

The deceleration in the industrial and exports growth was largely due to poor performance of some infrastructural sectors and lack of external demand caused by global recession.

(d) Estimates of savings rates for 1996–97 and current year are not yet available. However, rate of gross domestic savings as per cent of GDP at market price during 1995–96 was 25.6%.

(e) Inflows of foreign capital through foreign direct investment (FDI) and global depository receipts (GDR) had been $ 2159 million in April-August, 1997, and through foreign institutional investment (FII) had been $ 1307 million in April-September, 1997.

(f) and (g) The average annual growth rate in agriculture during he Eight Five Year Plan (1992–97) was 4.13 per cent which except for the Sixth plan period (1980–1985) growth rate of 6.2 per cent, exceeded the average growth rate achieved in all the preceding plan periods.

[English]

External Loans/Grants

660. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of external loans/grants received by the Government during the Seventh and Eighth Plan;

(b) the break-up of those loans/grants received by the State during the Seventh and Eighth plan; and

(c) the procedures adopted by the Centre to approve those loans/grants to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The amount of external loans/grants received by the Government during the Seventh and Eight Plan is as under :

(Rs. crore)

	Loans	Grants	Total
Seventh Plan (1985–86 to 1989–90)	18998.88	2572.74	21571.62
Eighth Plan (1992–93 to 1996–97)	43451.84	4830.00	48281.84

(b) External loans and grants received by the Government of India are passed on to the States in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA). During the Seventh and Eighth Plan, the break-up of ACA released to the States is as under:

(Rs. crore)

	Loans	Grants	Total
Seventh Plan	2185.30	973.52	3158.82
Eighth Plan	13210.76	5941.03	19151.79

(c) The State Governments formulate the project proposals for foreign loans/grants and sent them to the Central Administrative Ministry for evaluation from technical and feasibility angle. The proposal is also examined by Planning Commission for resource availability within the plan outlay. After approval of the Central Administrative Ministry and the Planning commission, the proposal is sent to the department of Economic Affairs (DEA), which

is the nodal agency for posing these projects to the external donor agencies. DEA views the proposal for its viability and matches the project with donors' spectral preferences, and approaches the appropriate donor for funding the project.

Smuggling of Arecanut

661. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of arecanut through Nepal and also import of arecanut in the name of dry fruits which affect adversely the Indian growers mainly from Kerala, Karnataka and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check smuggling of arecanut and to protect the interest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Available reports indicate some incidence of smuggling of arecanut (Betelnut) from Nepal to India. The details of seizure of arecanut attempted to be smuggled are furnished below:

Year	Value of seizure (Rs. in lac)
1994–95	16.14
1995–96	54.74
1996–97	41.69

There are however no reports to indicate import of arecanut in the guise of dry fruits.

(c) Anti Smuggling agencies are on high alert to prevent and detect any smuggling including smuggling of arecanut. Specific measures taken include greater surveillance & targetting of intelligence on the areas vulnerable to smuggling such as the Indo—Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border.

All India Judicial Service

662. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has strongly opposed the proposal of the Union Government for the constitution of an All-India Judicial Service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the other States so far opposed this move and the States which have approved the proposal; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has opposed the creation of All India Judicial Service which may not serve interests of an efficient administration of justice due to regional and language variations in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, J & K, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland have also not favoured the setting up of an All India Judicial Service. The State Governments of Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab, Kerala, Tripura, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have concurred to the setting up of an AIJS. The Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Rajasthan have given conditional endorsement to the proposal.

(d) In pursuance of a direction of Supreme Court of India in the All India Judges Association Case (Writ Petition No. 1022/89), the Government is already seized of the matter relating to creation of an All India Judicial Service. Secondly, comments from two States are awaited.

Agricultural Export

663. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have removed export curbs on groundnut and Seasamum besides realising the export quota of 5000 tonnes for milk powder;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these two items have been declare freely exportable during 1997–98; and

(d) if so, the guidelines issued by the Government to restrict the misuse of these two items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Vide Policy Circular No. 9/97–98 dated 14th July, 1997 and the Policy Circular No. 14/97-98 dated 30th July, 1997, the Government has permitted free export of HPS groundnut and seasamum (seasame seeds) without any quantitative restrictions during the current licensing year, 1997–98. Similarly vide Policy